



## DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Policy No.: DOC 4.5.26	Subject: <b>DENTAL SERVICES</b>
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Section 5: Health Care	Revision Date:
Signature: /s/ by Director Rick Day 3/20/98	Effective Date: July 1, 1998

### I. POLICY:

It is the policy of the Montana Department of Corrections to provide dental services to all offenders as a part of the intake process and as clinically indicated during incarceration.

### II. AUTHORITY:

53-1-203, MCA. Powers and Duties of Department of Corrections

Standards for Prisons and Juvenile Facilities by the National Commission on Correctional Health Care

### III. DEFINITIONS:

**Dental Services** means health care provided by licensed providers to relieve pain, eliminate infection/disease and restore functional ability to masticate (chew). This care includes emergent, urgent, interceptive (screening, preventative, or identification of extensive subacute disease, and education in oral self care), and corrective care to restore essential function. Specific services provided include restoration of carious teeth, extractions, management of periodontal disease, education on oral hygiene and endodontic/prostodontia procedures as clinically indicated. Elective or cosmetic procedures will not be provided unless clinically indicated and at the offenders expense.

### IV. PROCEDURES:

Each facility/program will develop local policies and procedures addressing the following:

1. Intake screening and initial examination with creation of treatment plans;
2. The process of prioritization of clinically indicated treatment;

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3. The provision of emergent, urgent and routine dental services;
4. The methods by which an inmate can access care for each level of care;
5. Education in self care and oral hygiene;
6. Compliance with standard sterilization procedures and clinical standards of practice;
7. Accountability of all sharps and instruments; and
8. Continuous quality improvement to provide statistical analysis of timeliness and appropriateness of care.

#### **V. CLOSING:**

Questions concerning this policy shall be directed to the Department Medical Director or designee.